

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 15 were pending at the time of the last Office Action. Applicant has amended claim 1, cancelled claim 15, and presented new claims 17-22. Thus, claims 1-4 and 17-28 are now pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baugher and Minhazuddin. Although applicant disagrees, applicant has amended the claims and added new claims 17-28 to clarify the claimed subject matter.

In some embodiments, applicant's technology provides a media-relay server for relaying to receiving clients packets of a real-time transport protocol that are received from sending clients. The sending clients send the packets to a single destination address and a single destination port of a firewall connected to the media-relay server. The media-relay server stores a security association for a dialog between each sending client and a receiving client. A security association includes an encryption key for decrypting packets sent from the sending client to the receiving client via the destination address and the destination port. The security association also includes a synchronization source identifier that uniquely identifies the sending client within the dialog. The security association also includes a source information of the sending client which may include a source address and source port of the sending client or a synchronization source identifier. The security association also includes an indication of the receiving client to which a packet sent from the sending client is to be forwarded.

The media-relay server receives from a sending client a datagram of a user datagram protocol sent to the destination address and the destination port. The datagram includes an encrypted packet and source information of the sending client that is not encrypted. Upon receiving the datagram, the media-relay server determines whether the sending client has an established security association that matches the

source information of the datagram. If not, the media relay drops the encrypted packet. Otherwise, the media-relay server, decrypts the encrypted packet using the encryption key of the established security association. The media-relay server then determines whether the synchronization source identifiers of the decrypted packet and the established security association do not match. If so, it drops the decrypted packet. Otherwise, it forwards the decrypted packet to the receiving client indicated in the established security association.

The Examiner points to MPEP § 2106.II.C to support his position that certain claim language can be ignored "the claim limitation is considered language that does not limit the scope of the claims." (Office Action, March 25, 2008, p. 2, emphasis added.) Applicant respectfully requests clarification from the Examiner as to how language that the Examiner refers to as a "claim limitation" does not "limit" the claim. Apparently, the Examiner is relying on the following statement of the MPEP: "For processes, the claim limitations will define steps or acts to be performed." The step of claim 1 in question was

receiving from the sending client an encrypted media packet sent using Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP) message format at a media-relay server, wherein a destination address and a destination port of multiple receiving network clients are not unique from the perspective of a sending client

According to the MPEP, this is a step defined by a claim limitation—the entire language of the step. Applicant is puzzled as to why the Examiner believes he can ignore certain language of this step when assessing patentability.

Nevertheless, applicant has amended claim 1 to address the Examiner's concern. Each of the claims now make it clear that multiple sending clients send packets to "a single destination address and a single destination port." Thus, the

language of claim 1 that the Examiner ignores, which was not suggested by the relied-upon references, can no longer be ignored.

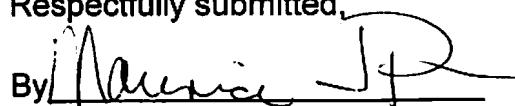
In addition, newly added claims 17-28 recite that an encrypted packet is received as part of a datagram of the user datagram protocol and the source information of the datagram is used to determine whether a security association was established for a sending client. None of the relied-upon references describes such use of source information of a datagram.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268874US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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